



Monday, May 2, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN TO REMOVE ASH TREES Health of trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON – The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will begin the process of removing of Ash trees that have been affected by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) insect infestation. The areas where trees will be removed initially include:

- Park Drive from Manitoba Street to Millard Street;
- Greenwood Road from Millard Street to Alderwood Street;
- Alderwood Street from Greenwood Road to Millard Street; and
- Millard Street from Greenwood Road to Hawthorn Avenue.

The trees to be removed will be identified and marked by Town staff and removed in May and June, weather permitting. The Town will only be removing trees on the municipal boulevard. Replacement of trees will occur within 12-18 months of removal.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small, emerald green, wood-boring beetle native to China and Eastern Asia. Though it is not harmful to people, the EAB is known to attack and kill all North American species of true Ash trees (*Fraxinus* species). This does not include the Mountain Ash trees (*Sorbus* species) which are not true Ash species. This metallic green beetle is extremely difficult to detect and is a significant risk to Canada's trees and forests. There are no natural predators in

North America to prevent its spread. EAB has been, and will continue to be, responsible for killing tens of millions of ash trees.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will replace approximately 1000 boulevard trees from 2016 to 2020 due the effects of this insect. It is expected that between 150-200 dead or dying trees will be removed and replaced per year. The replanting program is being managed by the Town's arborist to ensure we have an urban forest that is strong and diverse. It is the Town's goal to create a forest composition that is resistant to any future pests.

The replacement trees will be selected from an approved a list of species that are suitable for boulevard trees. Replacement trees will all be nursery stock with a caliper size of 60 millimeters (typical).

It is important to note that the Town cannot accommodate individual requests for tree species selection. In some cases, certain sites may not be replanted due to considerations including poor planting space, or overhead or underground utilities.

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**Healthy
Ash Tree**



**Infected
Ash Tree**

